

## Everett, Adolph

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**From:** Debbie Mans <debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 10:37 AM  
**To:** Enck, Judith;Plevin, Lisa;Flax, Phil;asvoros@gmail.com;Filippelli, John;Bellow, Bonnie;Matthews, Joan;Mugdan, Walter;Ritz, Phillip;Knutson, Lingard;elizabeth@nynjbaykeeper.org  
**Subject:** Soil Safe

Regional Administrator Enck, Lisa, the Phils, John, Bonnie, Walter, Joan and Lingard:

Thank you again for meeting with us yesterday. We really appreciate your time. I know Andrew has already followed-up with Phil with some documents.

I wanted to share with you a post we were able to get on the Huffington Post on the issue (I did not realize at the time we met yesterday it had gone up):

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/debbie-mans/how-chris-christies-contagious-political-culture-spreads\\_b\\_4680677.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/debbie-mans/how-chris-christies-contagious-political-culture-spreads_b_4680677.html)

Thanks, Debbie

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## Chris Christie did this, too? A pattern emerges: Moran

soilsafepicjpg-640ef71319b436d6.jpg

The 125-acres in Carteret where Soil Safe Inc. wants to build a giant cap. Environmentalists worry it could collapse, spewing toxins into the river. (*Patti Sipone/Star-Ledger*)

**Tom Moran | Star-Ledger Editorial Board** By **Tom Moran | Star-Ledger Editorial Board**

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on January 29, 2014 at 12:35 PM, updated February 12, 2014 at 5:30 PM

"If this could happen at the Port Authority, how else has government been abused for the political advantage of the governor in other agencies?" -- Assemblyman John Wisniewski

Gov. Chris Christie, aka the Incredible Shrinking Governor, is not such a scary figure anymore now that his bullying has been exposed. And that's a problem for him. Because each new story of his administration's abuse of government authority reinforces the credibility of the next one.

Here's **the latest**, from NY/NJ Baykeeper, a stand-up environmental organization that protects the Newark Bay and the rivers that feed into it.

The charge is that a landfill project on the Rahway River is getting fast-track approvals from the Christie administration, despite objections of several career staffers at the Department of Environmental Protection. And yes, the Maryland company behind this project, Soil Safe, has potent political connections in New Jersey. It gave lots of money to Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-Gloucester), the governor's key ally in the Democratic Legislature. And some of the land is owned by the law partner of Sen. Raymond Lesniak (D-Union), another senior player in Trenton.

Does that prove this process was corrupted? No, it does not. But when you look at the merits of this plan, and the unusually swift preliminary approvals it has gotten, it certainly takes on that special Jersey odor we all know so well.

The plan is to import lightly contaminated soil to build a giant cap on a 125-acre plot of mushy and even more contaminated soil along the Rahway River left behind by American Cyanamid. Environmentalists worry that such a cap could collapse, spewing pollutants into the river and bay. Some local officials worry that capping this soggy site could aggravate flooding, already a big problem in the area.

The disturbing part, according to Baykeeper, is that staffers at the DEP who have expertise in these matters raised objections and were overruled by more senior DEP officials. Even the Army Corps of Engineers seems concerned. They are studying the potential impact on flooding. But mysteriously, the **DEP says it will not wait** for the results before making its final decision.

Is this a clean kill? No. We'd need a few subpoenas to get to the bottom of it, and this case would have to wait on line. But there is good reason to be suspicious. And yes, Bridgegate makes Baykeeper's charge more believable.

As Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-Middlesex) put it recently: "If this could happen at the Port Authority, how else has government been abused for the political advantage of the governor in other agencies?"

Great question.

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